

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06896 080612Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
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R 080450Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6399

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6896

STADIS//////////

FOR PECK, NEA/PAB ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, SW, IN

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT SALES TO INDIA

REF: STOCKHOLM 3623

1. WE CAN WELL UNDERSTAND CONCERN EXPRESSED BY EMBASSY STOCKHOLM THAT CONTINUED DELAY IN ANSWERING SWEDISH REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO SELL VIGGEN AIRCRAFT TO INDIA IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY EMBARRASSING TO SWEDISH/US RELATIONS. WE DID, HOWEVER, WANT YOU TO HAVE OUR VIEW THAT WE WOULD EXPECT USG WOULD NOT TAKE A FAVORABLE DECISION ON THIS REQUEST UNTIL QUESTION OF AIRCRAFT SALE TO PAKISTAN IS RESOLVED.

2. WE ARE CERTAIN YOU CAN APPRECIATE VIEW IF WE AGREED TO SALE OF VIGGEN TO INDIA, WHILE WE HAVE NOT CONCURRED IN SALE OF US AIRCRAFT TO PAKISTAN, THIS WOULD BE SEEN BY GOP AS EXAMPLE OF A POLICY OF BLATANT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PAKISTAN. WE ARE NOT CONTENDING THAT EACH CASE SHOULD NOT BE JUDGED ON ITS INDIVIDUAL MERITS, BUT ONLY POINTING OUT IT HAS BEEN OUR CONSISTENT POLICY ON ARMS SALES TO INDIA AND PAKISTAN THAT ANY DECISION TO SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ONE COUNTRY NATURALLY TAKES INTO ACCOUNT REACTION IN THE OTHER. THIS IS A POSITION NATURALLY HIGHLIGHTED MORE BY EMBASSY NEW DELHI THAN US, BUT IT IS EQUALLY RELEVANT IN THIS CASE AS WELL.

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06896 080612Z

3. WE ARE NOT ATTEMPTING TO PREJUDGE WHAT THE FINAL
DECISION ON THE VIGGEN SALE SHOULD BE SINCE THE DEPARTMENT
AND EMBASSY DELHI ARE OBVIOUSLY IN A BETTER POSITION TO
ANSWER THIS QUESTION. IF A POSITIVE DECISION IS
EVENTUALLY RECOMMENDED, WE HOPE WE WOULD HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE YOU OUR THOUGHTS ON WHAT THE REACTION
IN ISLAMABAD WOULD BE. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, WE DID
WANT YOU TO KNOW WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THE BEST TACTIC NOW ON
THE VIGGEN SALE WOULD BE TO CONTINUE TO TEMPORIZE.
BYROADE

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